

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COA-02 CG-00 INT-08 COME-00 DLOS-06

EB-11 DOTE-00 IO-14 FMC-04 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03

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R 021410Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4088

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

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COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR IC UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: UK-GOI AGREEMENT TO GO TO PAR-
LIAMENT

REF: REYKJAVIK 1267

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE, FONMIN AGUSTSSON PUT BEFORE
CABINET NOVEMBER 1 FORMAL TEXT OF AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH
ON FISHERIES DISPUTE BASED ON HEATH-JOHANNESON ACCORD.
PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MINISTERS REQUESTED DELAY UNTIL NOVEM-
BER 5 OF CABINET VOTE ON GROUNDS THEIR PARTY HOLDING CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MEETING OVER WEEKEND. ALTHOUGH AGREEING TO DELAY,
PRIMIN HAS CALLED FOR MEETING OF ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS
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COMMITTEE TODAY TO CONSIDER TEXT.

2. SOURCE SAYS PRIMIN IS DETERMINED TO FORCE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE TO TAKE YES-OR-NO POSITION ON AGREEMENT AND HOPES TO BRING IT UP TO VOTE IN ALTHING NOVEMBER 6. HE IS ALSO DETERMINED TO SIGN IT AS IT STANDS. HE CAN, OF COURSE, COUNT ON SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REPS BOTH IN FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND ALTHING AS WHOLE SO TAKING AGREEMENT TO ALTHING FOR VOTE IS NO GAMBLE.

3. PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MINISTERS WILL NOT FIND IT EASY TO EXPLAIN TO THEIR OWN MILITANTS HOW THEY CAN SWALLOW THIS HUMILIATION AND STILL REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ALTHING VOTE IS FACE-SAVER SINCE THEY CAN CLAIM TO REMAIN FIRM IN THEIR CONVICTION WHILE BEING OVERRULED BY ALTHING. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS RUMORED THEY WILL SAY THEY INTERPRET AGREEMENT TO MEAN ICELAND RETAINS FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER 50-MILE FISHING AREA. PRIMIN IS SAID TO BE PREPARED TO LIVE WITH THIS INTERPRETATION SINCE HE CAN CLAIM THAT IN CASE OF INFRACTIONS OF FISHING RULES, ICELAND HAS FINAL POWER TO DENY FISHING PERMITS TO OFFENDING TRAWLERS.
IRVING

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